Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (Currently amended) A device control device <u>for controlling equipment,</u>

2   comprising:

3   input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, S11) which

4   identifies input information;

5   <u>speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech</u>

6   <u>signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a</u>

7   <u>likelihood of each specified phrase;</u>

8   process-item data storing means [[(D4)]] which stores a plurality of process items

9   <u>indicated by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means</u>for

10   executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and identified by

11   the input information recognition and identification means;

12   transition-definition data storing means (D5) which stores plural pieces of

13   transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process

14   items to another process item<u>, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for</u>

15   <u>the phrase is associated with a constant</u>; [[and]]

16   <u>device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent</u>

17   <u>to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified</u>

18   <u>phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant</u>

19   <u>indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment</u>

20   <u>in accordance with the determined process item; and</u>

21   acquisition means (6, 61, 64) which<u>, when the process item for controlling said</u>

22   <u>equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the</u>

23   <u>transition-definition data is not stored in said process item data storage means and/or said</u>

24   transition-data storage means, accesses an externally located source [[(100)]] of a new process

25   item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item and/or transition definition

26   data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing means or old

27   transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means to said new

28   process item or transition definition data, wherein.

29   ~~each of said transition definition data includes a condition corresponding to input~~

30   ~~information, and~~

31   ~~a piece of transition definition data is selected from at least said recognized~~

32   ~~information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on comparison~~

33   ~~between said input information input and the conditions of the individual transition definition~~

34   ~~data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated by said selected transition definition~~

35   ~~data.~~

1   2.   (Original) The device control device according to claim 1, wherein said

2   source compresses and supplies said new process item or said transition definition data, and said

3   acquisition means has means which decompresses said new process item or said transition

4   definition data acquired from said source.

                    3-6.   (Canceled)

1   7.   (Currently amended) A device control method for controlling equipment,

2   comprising:

3   a speech signal recognition and identification step of which recognizing input

4   speech signal, specifying a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computing

5   a likelihood of each specified phrase;

6   a process-item data storing step of storing, in a first memory, a plurality of

7   process items indicated by the candidate specified in said speech signal recognition and

8   identification step ~~for executing processes corresponding to input information recognized and~~

9   ~~identified at an input information recognition and identification step~~;

10   a transition-definition data storing step of storing, in a second memory, plural

11   pieces of transition definition data each having a condition corresponding to input information,

12   and defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process items to another process

13   item, in such a way that a process item specified by the candidate for the phrase is associated

14   with a constant;

15   device control step of:

16   determining a process item to be executed subsequent to a currently

17   executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified phase

18   computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant

19   indicated by the transition-definition data; and

20   controlling said equipment in accordance with the determined process

21   item; and

22   an acquisition and update step of, when the process item for controlling said

23   equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the

24   transition-definition data is not stored in said first memory and/or said second memory, accessing

25   an externally located source of a new process item or transition definition data, acquiring said

26   new process item or transition definition data, and updating an old process item stored at said

27   process-item data storing step or old transition definition data stored at said transition-definition

28   data storing step to said new process item or transition definition data[[;]].

29   ~~said input information recognition and identification step of recognizing and~~

30   ~~identifying input information to be input; and~~

31   ~~a step of selecting a piece of transition definition data from at least said~~

32   ~~recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition definition data, based on~~

33   ~~comparison between said input information input and the conditions of the individual transition~~

34   ~~definition data, and transitioning a status to a process item designated by said selected transition~~

35   ~~definition data.~~

1   8.   (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having

2   recorded thereon a computer program that allows a computer to function as:

3   ~~input information recognition and identification means (6, 61, 811) which~~

4   ~~identifies input information;~~

5   speech signal recognition and identification means which recognizes input speech

6   signal, specifies a candidate for a phrase contained in the speech signal, and computes a

7   likelihood of each specified phrase;

8   process-item data storing means [[(D4)]] which stores a plurality of process items

9   specified by the candidate for the phrase specified by said speech signal recognition means ~~for~~

10   ~~executing processes corresponding to recognized input information recognized and identified by~~

11   ~~the input information recognition and identification means;~~

12   transition-definition data storing means [[(D5)]] which stores plural pieces of

13   transition definition data defining transition from one process item in the plurality of process

14   items to another process item, in such a way that a process item indicated by the candidate for

15   the phrase is associated with a constant; [[and]]

16   device control means which determines a process item to be executed subsequent

17   to a currently executed item based on the candidate for the phrase, the likelihood of the specified

18   phase computed by said speech signal recognition and identification means, and the constant

19   indicated by the transition-definition data, the device control means controlling said equipment

20   in accordance with the determined process item; and

21   acquisition means ~~(6, 61, 64)~~ which, when the process item for controlling said

22   equipment, the process item being determined by said device controlling means, and/or the

23   transition-definition data is not stored in said process item data storage means and/or said

24   transition-data storage means, accesses an externally located source [[(100)]] of a new process

25   item and/or transition definition data, acquires said new process item and/or transition definition

26   data, and updates an old process item stored in said process-item data storing means or old

27   transition definition data stored in said transition-definition data storing means to said new

28   process item or transition definition data[[, and]].

29   ~~that is structured in such a way that each of said transition definition data includes~~

30   ~~a condition corresponding to input information, a piece of transition definition data is selected~~

31   ~~from at least said recognized information and the conditions of the individual transition~~

32   ~~definition data, based on comparison between said input information input and the conditions of~~

33   ~~the individual transition definition data, and a status is transitioned to a process item designated~~

34   ~~by said selected transition definition data.~~

1   9.   (New) The device control device according to claim 1, wherein said

2   device controlling means: computes a value represented by a product of the constant associated

3   with the transition from the currently executed item to each of other process items that includes

4   the candidate for the phrase and the likelihood of the specified phrase computed by said speech

5   signal recognition identification means; and determines, as a next process target, a process item

6   indicated by the candidate for the phrase that corresponds to largest of the values computed.